

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 /025 W

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R 191500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0817

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, BU, IT (CHAMURLISKY, NICOLA)

SUBJECT: TREASON CASE--NICOLA CHAMURLISKY

REF: STATE 010361

1. MFA'S SOVIET AND BAST EUROPEAN DESK CHIEF (GIORGIO VECCHI) PROVIDED US IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF THE CHAMULISKY CASE. VECCHI SAID THAT THE ITALIAN CHARGE IN SOFIA HAS BEEN SENT GUIDANCE FOR DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH AMEMBASSY SOFIA WHICH MIGHT HAVE A FEW ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE CASE NOT AVAILABLE TO HIM.

2. THE MFA IS AWARE THAT CHAMURLISKY, TOGETHER WITH MRS. LYDIA CLEVA AND HER BROTHER, WAS ARRESTED IN SEPTEMBER 1974. (BOTH MRS. CLEVA AND HER BROTHER WERE BORN IN BULGARIA OF ITALIAN PARENTAGE AND LIVED THERE PERMANENTLY UNTIL THEIR ARRESTS.) AT THE TIME OF THE ARREST, MRS. CLEVA'S APARTMENT WAS SEARCHED AND ALLEGEDLY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF INCRIMINATING MATERIAL WAS FOUND. THE MFA UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BULGARIANS REPORTEDLY FOUND SIMILAR MATERIAL (INCLUDING SOME SKETCHES) IN THE POSSESSION OF THE OTHER TWO INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE CHARGES LEVIED IN THE CASE INVOLVED "ESPIONAGE IN BEHALF OF A FOREIGN POWER."

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(CHAMURLISKY'S BROTHER VISITED THE ITALIAN EMBASSY

IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER 1974, AND STATED THAT THE THREE WERE ACCUSED OF HAVING OPPOSED THE UNION OF BULGARIA WITH THE SOVIET UNION.) VECCHI HAD NO ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON CHAMURLISKY, BUT HE DID KNOW THAT MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER WAS A RATHER WELL KNOWN SOCCER PLAYER IN BULGARIA.

3. MRS. CLEVA WAS EXPELLED FROM BULGARIA ON OCTOBER 4, 1974 ON THE GROUNDS THAT SHE WAS A REGULAR EMPLOYEE OF THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, SUBJECT TO WORLDWIDE SERVICE AND AS SUCH ENJOYED PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES UNDER THE 1961 VIENNA CONVENTION. (SHE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN HIRED AS A LOCAL CONTRACT EMPLOYEE IN SOFIA, AND EVENTUALLY HER STATUS WAS CHANGED TO THAT OF A REGULAR MFA EMPLOYEE ALTHOUGH, IN FACT, SHE HAD NEVER BEEN TRANSFERRED AND NON WAS PLANNED.) THE BULGARIANS INITIALLY ARGUED AGAINST THE ITALIAN CLAIM OF IMMUNITY BUT EVENTUALLY GAVE IN AND ACCEPTED THE ITALIAN VIEWPOINT.

4. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS APPARENTLY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE INDIRECTLY THROUGH CONTACTS WITH THE LAWYER FOR MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER. (EMBASSY SOFIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN ANY CONSULAR VISITS.) THE ITALIANS WERE TOLD THAT THE TRIAL WAS SECRET AND THAT CHAMURLISKY RECEIVED THE DEATH SENTENCE AND MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER RECEIVED A LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE. (PERHAPS 20 YEARS). THE TRIAL WAS APPARENTLY HELD SOMETIME AFTER ZHIVKOV'S JUNE VISIT TO ITALY BUT VECCHI DID NOT KNOW THE PRECISE DATE.

5. WHILE MRS. CLEVA, EVEN AFTER HER EXPULSION, WAS GOING TO BE ACCUSED FORMALLY IN THE TRIAL, THE ITALIANS SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THIS DROPPED SINCE, THEY ARGUED, IT WAS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE IMMUNITY ISSUE AGAIN ENTERING INTO THE CASE. THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ZHIKOV TO ITALY LAST JUNE OFFERED THE ITALIANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERCEDE FORCEFULLY IN BEHALF OF MRS. CLEVA'S

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BROTHER. DURING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE MFA'S THEN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ROBERTO DUCCI AND A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WAS IN ROME TO NEGOTIATE THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE FOR THE ZHIKOV VISIT, THE ITALIANS OBTAINED ORAL AGREEMENT THAT MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM BULGARIA AS SOON AS THE JUDICIAL APPEALS PROCESS IS COMPLETED.

6. BASED ON THE FACT THAT MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER HAS NOT BE EXPELLED FROM BULGARIA, AND ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM HIS LAWYER, THE ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT THE APPEALS AGAINST THE CONVICTIONS AND THE SENTENCES ARE STILL PENDING. THEREFORE, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST CHAMURLISKY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.

7. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE CAN OBTAIN MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT THHIS JUNCTURE IN ROME OTHER THAN ASKING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH MRS. CLEVA NOW, OR HER BROTHER AT THE TIME HIS IS FINALLY ABLE TO LEAVE BULGARIA FOR ITALY. UNDERSTANDABLY, THE ITALIANS REMAIN CONCERNED THAT THEIR "DEAL" MADE FOR THE RELEASE OF MRS. CLEVA'S BROTHER IN CONNECTION WITH THE ZHIKOV VISIT BECOME KNOWN AND JEOPARDIZE HIS EARLY RELEASE FROM PRISON. VOLPE

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